

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Thunderstorm

It was a hot, still, summer afternoon. The temperature had reached 93 degrees (**and, reach, beet**) the humidity was high. My buddy (**Beat, Alex, Doll**) and I were fishing on Green (**Junk, Lake, Yeast**). We didn't have a boat, so (**we, sea, deep**) fished from the shore. Luckily, we (**agree, eagle, found**) a huge, oak tree near the (**candy, shore, degree**). We were able to cast our (**lines, career, kind**) from the shade of this beautiful (**feeble, right, tree**). Dressed in our sleeveless t-shirts and (**funny, cut-offs, tangle**), we tried to stay cool. If (**only, little, week**) we could catch some fish.

Catching (**wheat, fish, bead**) soon seemed unimportant. Most of the (**peach, sweet, afternoon**) the sky had been a bright (**blue, weave, hilly**), but now things were changing. We (**tardy, could, cheap**) see white puffy clouds forming to (**the, jump, meal**) west. We felt a warm breeze (**dirty, dangle, coming**) from the east. That combination usually (**steal, meant, sleep**) rain was coming. Soon the puffy (**white, peel, newly**) clouds stretched upward, forming gray anvil-like (**tepee, figures, dark**) in the sky. I remembered my (**dad, kind, refuse**) called these thunderheads. He always said (**short, leak, to**) get away from these.

The sky (**tight, looked, profit**) ominous. Clouds were upon us and (**your, beside, the**) breeze had turned into a strong (**care, wind, night**). Raindrops were beginning to fall. In (**sleep, the, torn**) distance we heard the rumbling of (**thunder, purple, went**) and saw the flash of lightening. (**Behind, Again, Side**), I remembered my dad's advice. He (**said, talk, learn**) if you saw lightening and heard (**really, your, thunder**) within 30 seconds, the storm was (**kick, within, would**) six miles. It was time to (**leave, train, center**).

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## Chopsticks

Have you ever used chopsticks? I know it looks hard, and **(it, ran, pond)** can be when you first try **(tank, to, bring)** learn to use them. Remember, though, **(band, call, learning)** to use a fork was hard **(at, bran, fond)** first, too. My dad complains that **(prank, I, king)** still don't hold the chopsticks in **(brand, ball, the)** correct way, but I don't care **(win, tent, because)** I can get the food from **(chunk, the, hang)** bowl into my mouth the way **(I, round, grin)** use them.

I had to learn **(lend, to, sunk)** use chopsticks because one time when **(I, sound, hill)** was only ten years old I **(hound, was, bang)** going to eat with them for **(flung, swell, a)** whole year. Using chopsticks got pretty **(easy, scream, ford)** after a while, and I became **(well, so, street)** skilled that I even learned to **(pick, block, ground)** up oily peanuts with them. I **(greet, was, snail)** surprised to learn that some foods, **(slang, twin, like)** noodles, are actually easier to eat **(with, start, well)** chopsticks.

The Chinese always use the **(drank, chopsticks, black)** in their right hands. Since I **(sing, bray, am)** left-handed, I used them in **(my, round, plan)** left hand. I thought I had **(gland, spin, learned)** to use chopsticks pretty well, but **(after, skin, wept)** an entire year the Chinese people **(clip, drive, still)** stared at the way I used **(my, stand, flight)** chopsticks. Of course, they were staring **(mend, clean, because)** I was using my left hand.

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## Freedom Trail

After we got off of the train, found the hotel, and got into our room, we unpacked our bags. It seemed to take forever, but (**finally, grand, teller**) we were ready to go out (**cream, sightseeing, drill**).

"We're in Boston, so I think (**scum, tent, we**) should really start out our sightseeing (**by, funny, swept**) walking the Freedom Trail," said Dad.

"(**Twist, That's, Longing**) the trail that Paul Revere rode (**banner, sound, along**) to warn the people that the (**British, sander, clasp**) were coming."

In the lobby of (**clink, the, spell**) hotel we got a map showing (**ponder, run, us**) where we might best begin our (**walk, spring, crisp**) along the Freedom trail. The beginning (**longer, found, of**) the trail was quite some distance (**from, stand, small**) the hotel, so we rode in (**flight, a, fact**) taxi to its origin. The trail (**started, mend, swell**) in a big park called the (**Trunk, Boston, Cleaner**) Commons where many people were enjoying (**felt, lift, themselves**) by feeding the birds. Children were (**riding, swimming, raking**) bikes or skateboards. Some people were (**standing, laughing, playing**) music or selling things they had (**made, under, behind**).

On the sidewalk, a red line (**rich, marked, mixture**) the Freedom Trail. We followed it (**limit, total, until**) we came to a cemetery where (**we, deal, down**) opened an iron gate and went (**nation, free, in**). Dad said that the names were (**of, lawyer, empty**) people who had lived in Boston (**route, pack, over**) 100 years ago. Next, we came (**to, trip, subject**) an old church. The buildings around (**money, it, missed**) were new, but the church had (**been, home, letter**) preserved. Up on the top was (**large, a, cart**) huge bell that rang every day (**guess, people, at**) noon.

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## Cookies

The first thing you need to know about me is that I like cookies. I have always liked them and (**probably, hound, bang**) always will like them. Now you (**flung, will, swell**) understand why the following experience was (**scream, ford, so**) incredible to me.

I was riding (**with, white, stream**) my family on a bus in (**Break, Taiwan, Blood**). We had been with a large (**purpose, group, heard**) of people sightseeing around the country. (**Everyone, Justice, Accept**) on the bus was from Taiwan (**grain, between, or**) America. I had been listening to (**the, nothing, which**) man and his little boy sitting (**welcome, in, hitch**) front of me. They were from (**jump, Taiwan, never**) and the five year old boy (**had, together, repeat**) lived in Taiwan all his life. (**Week, Hospital, All**) during the trip the boy stared (**know, should, at**) me. He had never before seen (**place, someone, open**) with blonde hair.

The boy had (**suggest, print, been**) asking his dad for a cookie. (**His, Laugh, System**) dad said no and tried to (**wait, scared, ignore**) him. However, the boy's voice kept (**recover, getting, could**) louder and louder. "Dad, can I (**have, farmer, item**) a cookie now? Dad, Dad, I (**wonder, your, want**) a cookie," he kept asking. I (**went, longer, waited**) for his dad to get really (**attend, upset, water**).

Finally, the father looked at him (**remain, mean, and**) said, "I told you -- no cookies. (**Need, Only, Season**) sea weed!" His dad handed him (**something, train, conduct**). To my shock, the boy accepted (**concern, it, their**) and began eating it. When the (**bus, smile, heart**) stopped I found out what it (**down, complete, was**) and bought some at the store. (**Iron, I, Flower**) was surprised, it wasn't bad! Since (**that, marriage, spend**) day, I have learned to eat (**queen, use, and**) like the dried pressed seaweed. I (**guess, tomato, crime**) you never know when you'll learn (**place, to, manual**) like something new.

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## Winona

Winona had straight black hair that came to her shoulders. Her eyes were deep brown and (**sparkled, reach, tongue**) when she smiled. Her ancestors were (**thimble, part, pen**) of the Chippewa Indian tribe. Now (**junk, her, brittle**) family lived in the city in (**quick, loan, a**) large house. Many other Indian families (**lived, slight, plowed**) in her community. Her aunts and (**asked, uncles, wing**) and grandparents were all close by.

(**Spill, Tin, One**) of Winona's most favorite pastimes was (**talking, dead, mingle**) to her grandfather. She loved to (**team, hear, little**) him tell of life in the (**stay, handle, old**) days. Back then her people lived (**close, store, look**) to nature. They understood and were (**limit, rank, friends**) with the animals and birds around (**them, flavor, knock**). They used things in their environment (**lunch, for, value**) food and shelter and clothing. At (**chew, smooth, the**) same time, they were careful to (**relief, always, deal**) leave plenty for future generations.

"Life (**in, huge, interest**) those days was simple," said Winona's (**river, grandfather, nothing**) during one of their discussions, "we (**had, never, panic**) some difficult times, but our needs (**tumble, were, sound**) few."

Sometimes, Winona would dream of (**the, harder, winter**) past. She wished that she could (**rear, go, lawn**) back in time for just one (**day, that, down**) to experience that life. At the (**scale, built, same**) time, she knew that it would (**be, number, angle**) much more difficult and demanding than (**talk, captain, her**) present life.

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## The Green Frog Mystery

"Look at the size of that frog!" exclaimed Jose. "Let's try to catch him for **(a, reach, misty)** pet."

Angela looked at the frog, **(pen, and, brightly)** it certainly was the biggest frog **(junk, brittle, she)** had ever seen. It was also **(quickly, the, loaned)** greenest frog she had ever seen, **(and, mangle, candle)** its bulging eyes seemed to beckon **(spill, them, lulled)** to follow. Every time Jose grabbed **(for, bumble, longed)** the frog, it hopped several yards **(spank, ahead, little)**. Once he fell to the ground **(with, handle, stay)** his hands cupped over the frog, **(plowed, team, but)** it slipped out and continued hopping.

"**(Come, Beetle, Rank)** on, Angela, you have to help **(witty, me, chill)**" said Jose. "If you position yourself **(way, short, deep)** ahead of me, then you can **(dusty, cattle, grab)** him."

Angela and Jose tried their **(furry, new, hardy)** approach several times, but each time **(behind, thing, the)** frog got away. After he jumped **(away, relax, note)** from them he would stop and **(press, look, portion)** at them as if to say, "**(Begin, Letter, Come)** and get me!"

"I'm getting tired **(of, things, tell)** this," Angela complained. "Let's just forget **(story, about, house)** the frog and go home."

"Wait!" **(stiff, from, said)** Jose excitedly. "What's that?" Angela's eyes **(followed, write, fact)** in the direction of Jose's pointed **(hour, bottom, finger)**. Straight ahead, only a few yards **(away, army, what)**, stood an enormous house.

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## A Long Day

Our sightseeing trip was fun, but Antonio got tired of walking. We didn't know what to do (**with, bake, date**) someone who couldn't walk, so Papa (**came, gave, sale**) him a ride on his back. (**Cape, Blame, I'll**) bet lots of fathers have carried (**their, cake, scant**) children when they got tired of (**fate, sightseeing, glass**).

Finally, we got to the famous (**fame, twain, bay**) where the riot called the Boston (**Tea, Pale, Glean**) Party had occurred. There were lots (**scorn, of, tape**) ships in the bay that we (**might, flame, plate**) see, but we were all getting (**lake, snake, hungry**) so Papa took us into a (**scum, small, pave**) shop. We looked at the food (**tale, drive, counter**) and saw all kinds of fish (**lying, shape, brag**) on ice. None of it looked (**frame, press, very**) tasty too us, so we ate (**some, make, blond**) shrimp instead.

All of a sudden (**Late, Plank, Antonio**) said, "I want to go swimming."

"(**Lame, Me, Sway**) too, said our sister Selena. "This (**has, rave, small**) been fun, but I'd like to (**scrub, go, whale**) back to the hotel and jump (**into, stall, drape**) the swimming pool."

"Okay," Dad agreed, "(**Flake, I, Span**) think we've had enough walking for (**take, drank, one**) day."

Instead of taking the taxi (**back, track, meat**) to the hotel, this time, we (**commit, return, rode**) the bus. When we got off, (**we, shake, gaze**) still had to walk two blocks (**wake, brush, to**) the hotel, and I was so (**tired, frill, tame**) when we arrived that I slept (**crib, instead, skate**) of going swimming.

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## Off We Go

In preparing for their hike, Steve's father gave them several important items. He gave them a compass, which (**would, found, long**) help them figure out what direction (**crisp, they, spring**) would be walking. He also gave (**run, pond, the**) boys a first aid kit in (**spell, clink, case**) one of them got hurt. Finally, (**he, clasp, sand**) offered the boys some waterproof matches (**sound, band, that**) might come in handy in case (**it, long, twist**) rained.

Soon the day arrived for (**swept, fun, beginning**) the hike. Steve and Bob carefully (**looked, tent, scum**) over their equipment to make sure (**drill, they, cream**) had everything. Both boys placed the (**gear, tell, grand**) in their backpacks. After trying on (**play, crank, his**) pack, Bob thought his was too (**light, frill, boost**). When he checked the pack he (**strand, along, found**) that he had forgotten the pots, (**bill, slant, pans**) and cups needed for cooking. Fortunately, (**they, growl, split**) hadn't left home yet and he (**sell, was, strict**) able to pack the cooking gear.

(**Glad, Frisk, Steve's**) dad drove the boys to the (**beginning, spell, blink**) of Ridge Trail. It was a (**paint, sunny, bond**), summer day and both Bob and (**Steve, lump, felt**) were glad to start their hike (**sun, cramp, on**) a warm, dry day. After walking (**strung, for, mean**) several hours on the first day (**the, write, seven**) boys began to tire. It seemed (**white, as, return**) if they had been going uphill (**green, renew, the**) whole time. Finally, they arrived at (**Down, Pine, Were**) Lake in the late afternoon. Bob (**was, pain, while**) ready for a swim, but Steve (**came, turn, said**) he was too tired.



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## Halloween

What night every year is the most exciting? When I try to answer that (**question, hound, bang**) I have lots of nights to (**flung, choose, swell**) from. Christmas Eve may be the (**scream, ford, best**) of all. That's when all of (**our, well, street**) family gets together again. Everybody seems (**block, to, ground**) be full of love at Christmas.

(**Greet, Snail, The**) night before my birthday is a (**very, slang, twin**) special one for me. When you (**slung, well, are**) a child you always want to (**be, start, fill**) another year older. A birthday is (**drank, black, exciting**) because it is your special day. (**Everyone, Sing, Bray**) pays attention to the person who (**round, plan, has**) a birthday.

I'm trying to choose (**the, plank, gland**) most exciting night of the year (**spin, for, hill**) kids, though. When I think about (**drunk, clip, exciting**) nights that come every year I (**can't, wept, drive**) help but think about Halloween. Wow! (**Stand, Small, I**) don't know who invented Halloween, but (**it, flight, fact**) must have been a kid.

Just (**mend, swell, think**), a night when you can dress (**trunk, up, clean**) in a scary costume and walk (**felt, lift, around**) in the dark. A night when (**you, found, long**) can go to someone's house and (**crisp, spring, get**) free candy! I only wish I (**run, didn't, pond**) eat too much and get sick (**every, spell, clink**) year.

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## The Beach

The best way to cool off on a hot summer day is to go to the beach. Where I live, we don't have (**air, mud, cattle**) conditioning and the temperature can get (**reach, up, freely**) into the 90's some days. To (**doll, tight, keep**) the house cool, we pull all (**settle, the, pen**) shades down and turn on fans.

(**Sometimes, Hardy, Deeply**), it's so hot that we just (**candy, spend, silly**) the whole day at the beach. (**Other, Junk, Mangle**) times, we go after dinner for (**dusty, a, newly**) quick swim to cool off before (**dirty, settle, going**) to bed.

At the beach we (**battle, stick, loaned**) an umbrella in the sand and (**junk, foggy, lay**) out a blanket to mark our (**chill, territory, tight**). But most of our time is (**dark, little, spent**) down by the water. The sand (**is, kettle, tangle**) wet and cool and the breeze (**dandy, off, lightly**) the water makes you forget how (**jelly, sadly, hot**) it is back home. We bring (**a, pity, fog**) cooler with food and drinks and (**tardy, funny, some**) sand toys for the little kids. (**Little, I, Jingle**) like to swim out to the (**dock, brittle, witty**) with my friends and practice diving (**deep, much, off**). Sometimes we throw "treasures" into the (**kind, water, could**) and try to find them underwater. (**My, Matter, Trend**) mom can relax under the umbrella (**asked, and, longed**) read her book since there is (**a, plowed, spill**) lifeguard to watch us in the (**team, water, coax**).

When we get back home, it (**doesn't, ranked, trust**) feel so bad. Besides, we're so (**mailed, beetle, tired**) from swimming that we can fall (**right, angle, candle**) to sleep. It's a great way (**stirred, plant, to**) stay cool.

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## Basketball Game

Do you like to get very excited and yell and cheer? If you do, then go to **(a, clam, speech)** high school basketball game. I should **(glide, warn, smoke)** you that if you go, there **(milk, spree, will)** be an awful lot of noise **(flirt, and, steal)** music. When you put all the **(students, roast, blank)** from two different schools together in **(saint, the, strode)** same building, and each school has **(prime, disk, its)** band playing, it can be hard **(to, fact, scrub)** hear what the person next to **(grove, snake, you)** is saying.

Don't let that stop **(you, crowd, lamp)** from going to the game, though, **(theft, sprain, it's)** really fun, and before you know **(it, trip, sway)** you will be yelling and cheering **(frog, quilt, along)** with everyone else. In fact, you **(will, wept, strife)** probably cheer even if you don't **(plow, know, draw)** any of the players on the **(skill, gasp, teams)**. At the beginning of the game **(you, cramp, smelt)** may wonder why people are yelling **(tramp, which, so)** loud. Don't bother to ask the **(blond, stamp, person)** next to you why people are **(yelling, trust, spleen)**. That person will probably say, "Who **(flame, shred, cares)**? Everyone else is cheering so I **(do, split, bright)** too!" Sometimes I think that everyone **(state, at, pump)** the game is crazy. What do **(you, starch, desk)** think?

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## The Mansion

When Jose and Angela looked up and saw the house Angela cried out, "Where are we anyway? I thought we were in the (**middle, rain, oak**) of nowhere and all of a (**grain, sudden, roach**) here is this huge house. It's (**load, weave, a**) mansion!"

"I don't know where we (**loaf, are, easy**)," said Jose, "but I'm not going (**to, read, toast**) be afraid and run away, I'm (**three, soap, going**) to investigate this place. This has (**to, coal, sheep**) be where the frog was leading (**bean, us, roam**). Are you coming with me or (**do, oats, heel**) I have to explore this place (**dough, lawn, by**) myself?"

"Are you sure it's safe?" (**Angela, Road, Steam**) replied. She hesitated on the path (**peach, leading, coach**) toward the front door all the (**while, loan, peak**) considering what she should do. Just (**sweep, then, blow**) the frog that had been leading (**them, soul, pour**) jumped onto the front steps of (**four, the, court**) mansion and hopped through the partially (**open, throw, pillow**) front door. "All right, all right" (**lone, fire, croaked**) Angela. "If a frog can go (**toad, in, wheel**), I can go in, but let's (**stay, brand, yours**) together."

"Here it goes," Jose said (**softly, what reason**) as he slowly pushed the door. (**Time, Come, The**) hinges squealed and cobwebs fell as (**the, winner, next**) door opened. They could hear a (**trials, would, fluttering**) sound in the air and what (**must, really, create**) be other creatures skittering in the (**next, dark, snow**) so when Jose looked at Angela (**type, they, heaven**) turned and ran out of the (**house, text, dough**) as fast as they could and (**word, never, cruise**) went back.

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## The Hot Air Balloon

"Is this how we fill up the balloon with air?" asked Tommy.

"Not quite," the pilot (**responded, alcove, slice**). "We need to put hot air (**froze, in, mine**) the balloon. This fan just helps (**note, bride, us**) get started. As soon as the (**hope, balloon, prize**) is partially full, I will turn (**on, hose, smile**) the burner, which makes the hot (**snore, air, mine**). As you know, hot air rises. (**Role, When, Slice**) the balloon gets enough hot air (**in, smoke, style**) it, the balloon will rise, and (**woke, with, twine**) this basket connected to the balloon, (**we'll, tide, joke**) be able to go for a (**slope, ride, size**)."

After a few more adjustments, Mr. (**Jumping, Mole, Johnson**) turned to Tommy and asked, "Are (**broke, you, coke**) ready for me to turn the (**burner, stove, those**) on?"

"Yeah!" Tommy yelled excitedly. The (**sore, pilot, pine**) turned the control knob on his (**code, there, gas**) tanks and lit the burner. A (**huge, robe, line**) flame leaped out and roared. Pointed (**write, at, mean**) the opening at the bottom of (**more, spine, the**) balloon, the burner soon began to (**huge, fill, mind**) the balloon with hot air.

Slowly (**the, chose, like**) balloon began to grow and grow. (**Cone, Vote, Tommy**) couldn't believe his eyes as the (**balloon, hole, divide**) lifted off the ground and rose (**white, into, know**) the sky. It's so tall, he (**green, play, thought**) to himself. It must be as (**ride, high, jump**) as a four story building. He (**began, month, were**) to take pictures with his camera. (**Really, Sammy, Under**) and Ted will never believe this!

(**Pipe, Hunt, Soon**) the balloon was ready to take (**off, belief, safe**). Tommy climbed into the basket with (**store, noise, his**) father and the pilot.

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## The Vote

There was a period of silence while the students considered the options that had been raised. President Alicia took this opportunity to (**summarize, twenty, freely**). "So far," she explained, "we have (**muddy, had, pity**) three suggestions. One, a picnic at (**mud, bad, the**) beach; two, an all night party (**at, tardy, white**) school, and three, an evening party. (**Handy, Swift, Any**) other new ideas before we put (**dirty, tackle, these**) to a vote?"

Jan spoke next. "(**I, Doll, Deep**) agree with Jerry that an outdoor (**chill, party, middle**) is risky. The least expensive way (**settle, candy, might**) be an evening party here at (**school, brittle, dusk**). Instead of hiring a band, we (**gully, dime, could**) play records. Then our only cost (**would, jingle, wing**) be some money for snacks and (**spell, drinks, sandy**)."

"I like the idea of skipping (**the, funny, sadly**) last day of school, though," added (**mean, Craig, swift**).

No one spoke for several minutes. "(**Jelly, Right, If**) there is no further discussion, we'll (**put, jump, dollar**) the three choices to a vote." (**clean, able, declared**) Alicia. "We'll discuss details and cost (**later, year, mouse**). All those in favor of a (**cold, rattle, picnic**) raise your hand."

Only six students (**voted, kettle, danger**) for a picnic. Next, they voted (**bother, on, were**) the all night party, which received (**twenty-two, rain, player**) votes. Finally, five students voted for (**walked, an, band**) evening party.

"It looks like we'll (**pain, be, anyone**) having an all night party," said (**power, chest, Alicia**). "We'll have to set up committees."

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## A New Job

Danny was feeling pretty good about himself. He had managed to get a (**quake, job, preach**) after school at a doughnut shop. (**It, Slid, Shade**) was his first day on the (**gloom, job, blink**) and he was determined to succeed (**flame, there, at**) this one. Other jobs he had (**tried, clock, play**) just hadn't worked out. For instance, (**plow, claim, there**) was his former job as a (**claim, dishwasher, speech**) in a restaurant. He thought he (**was, blade, fled**) doing well until one day when (**glass, he, power**) stacked too many dishes on top (**slave, crack, of**) each other and broke twenty of (**them, fray, bred**). By the time he paid for (**groan, those, trick**) dishes, he had only made five (**drink, stand, dollars**) in two weeks. Then there was (**the, scold, pain**) job as carryout boy at the (**smart, broom, grocery**) store. Danny enjoyed talking to all (**the, prop, scout**) people from his neighborhood as he (**drum, snug, helped**) carry their bags for them.

One (**day, twig, crop**), he made a mistake. It just (**sneer, happened, frock**) to be when he was helping (**plan, club, Mr.**) Appleby. Mr. Appleby was one of (**the, flour, bless**) grumpiest men in town. He also (**gleam, happened, print**) to have a brand new car. (**Crush, Free, When**) Danny put the groceries on the (**seat, bright, greet**), one bag fell over. It had (**spell, truck, eggs**) in it and they broke on (**stake, the, clash**) floor and the seat. Danny had (**to, grin, skin**) quit that job, too. He sure (**spark, hoped, blend**) he would do better at the (**doughnut, slight, pretty**) shop!

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## Babysitting

One day Vanessa was babysitting two children. Their names were Blake and Kayla. (**Kayla, Plight, Clang**) was 4 years old and Blake (**flog, was, bleat**) two and a half years old. (**Glee, Slain, Today**) they were playing hide-and-go- (**seek, prune, crane**). While Vanessa was counting, the children (**frock, looked, broad**) for a place to hide. When (**graze, trunk, she**) was done Vanessa went to look (**dress, for, spill**) them.

She started looking in the (**closets, stain, snail**), bedrooms, even the basement. She was (**twin, cling, looking**) for quite a while and was (**getting, globe, cream**) worried. Ten minutes had passed. She (**grade, finally, speak**) decided to look outside. The kids (**skill, liked, frail**) to be outside, so she thought (**treat, smite, they**) would go there to hide.

Vanessa (**groan, looked, plea**) in the bushes and garden. She (**clean, looked, flint**) around the yard and still could (**not, bluff, glide**) find them. She was now panicking (**slight, proof, and**) almost in tears. Vanessa started calling (**creep, out, frank**) their names. It was getting late (**and, braid, gruff**) was past Blake and Kayla's bedtime.

(**Train, Drill, She**) asked neighbors if they had seen (**them, spark, still**). She got to one house and (**skirt, a, tweed**) boy answered the door. He was (**about, snatch, flint**) Kayla's age, four years old. Before (**sleet, he, froze**) could say anything the mother came (**to, trench, stack**) the door and saw how frightened (**smash, Vanessa, flight**) was. When Vanessa told her what (**starch, crab, had**) happened the mother said that Blake (**and, blunt, clown**) Kayla were inside playing.



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## The Guitar Player

Brian was pleased with his new electric piano. He had been saving his money (**for, robe, mice**) a year to buy the piano (**write, and, alcove**) take lessons. Brian's teacher had said (**bite, froze, he**) was ready to play in public. (**Brian, Note, Fine**) thought maybe he could play in (**hope, the, lime**) end of the year school talent (**hose, like, show**). But he didn't want to play (**on, snore, stride**) stage by himself.

Brian's teacher suggested (**born, he, tribe**) start a group. All he needed (**was, role, rice**) someone to play drums, lead guitar (**smoke, kite, and**) bass guitar. Brian thought of his (**wine, old, woke**) friend, Nicky, who had been playing (**drums, rave, time**) for several years. When the two (**hike, doze, friends**) got together they got excited about (**strike, starting, cope**) a group. Nicky had a cousin, (**torn, scribe, Chad**), who played bass guitar and he (**joined, nice, chore**) the group. But they still needed (**pole, line, someone**) to play electric guitar and the (**talent, confine, hole**) show was only four weeks away.

(**Spoke, Brian, Mile**) couldn't find anyone to play guitar. (**Dime, Joke, He**) even put an advertisement in the (**school, clove, ride**) newspaper. The three boys had been (**quote, spine, practicing**) together, but something was missing. Brian (**type, slope, was**) ready to give up on his (**plans, cloth, twice**) for starting a rock band.

One (**tore, stone, night**) while the group was practicing in (**the, pine, mole**) garage, there was a knock at (**broke, the, while**) door. In stepped Michelle, one of (**Brian's, Stove's, Size's**) classmates. She showed him her guitar.

"(**Can, Those, Beside**) I join group?" she asked.

Brian (**nose, style, shouted**) for joy. They had a band!

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Balloon Ride

Tommy usually did not like Mondays, but today was different. He couldn't wait, because today was (**his, jaw, book**) tenth birthday. Best of all, today (**law, was, bind**) the day for his hot air (**haul, new, balloon**) ride. When his parents asked him (**what, draw, boy**) he wanted as a gift, he (**crawl, said, took**), "A balloon ride!" He had watched (**fawn, pew, a**) television show about balloons and thought (**it, crew, enjoy**) looked exciting. All day long Tommy (**maul, rind, sat**) in school and watched the clock. (**At, Hawk, Blind**) lunchtime he told his best friends, (**Cook, Sammy, Toy**) and Ted, that he was going (**brew, on, shook**) a balloon ride after school. Both (**took, grew, of**) his buddies wanted to go, but (**Tommy, pawn, hind**) said there would only be room (**launch, for, join**) his father, the pilot and him. (**Jump, He, Lawn**) promised he would take his camera (**flew, fault, along**) and show them pictures later.

Soon (**school, throw, moist**) was over. When the bell rang, (**broil, Tommy, flower**) ran outside and found his parents (**point, employ, waiting**) in their car. He hopped in (**and, train, void**) soon they were off. Tommy's father (**hope, said, wealth**) the balloon pilot had called earlier (**brook, to, oil**) say the weather conditions were perfect (**for, drawer, lunch**) the ride. They agreed to meet (**attend, live, at**) the fairgrounds on the edge of (**town, house, barn**).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## State Fair

Every summer, at the end of August, we go to the State Fair. My brother and I love to (**go, best, hung**) to the State Fair. There is (**sink, so, stand**) much to do and see. We (**trunk, sting, like**) the rides, the games, the animals, (**and, sunk, ground**) the shows.

The rides are awesome. (**Pond, The, Dunk**) roller coaster always has lots of (**bran, clan, high**) speed twists and turns that leave (**us, blend, sell**) laughing. My favorite ride is the (**Blink, Spell, Big**) Drop, which plunges over 75 feet. (**We, Fun, Sang**) also like the Cascade Falls ride, (**fond, which, sang**) drenches us in cold water. On (**drank, long, a**) hot summer day, that may be (**hint, the, crank**) best ride.

The games on the (**Midway, rest, bring**) are also fun. My brother is (**faint, sin, really**) good at shooting basketballs and throwing (**baseballs, seven, drill**). I'm better at the shooting gallery (**grand, games, found**) and usually win lots of prizes. (**One, Strict, Run**) game that neither one of us (**spill, is, song**) good at is the tossing the (**plastic, split, mean**) rings over the necks of empty (**could, soda, make**) bottles. Neither one of us can (**get, train, reveal**) a "ringer."

The animal exhibits aren't (**away, as, said**) much fun, but often are interesting. (**There, Seem, Sing**) are lots of different animals to (**best, live, see**). Usually one building has all the (**sail, people, farm**) animals like cows, horses, chickens, pigs, (**help, and, know**) sheep. Another building has more exotic (**animals, morning, cream**) that are found in the wilderness. (**Nose, Music, One**) of my favorites concentrates on "birds (**of, hope, bring**) prey." This exhibit includes eagles, hawks, (**fine, mess, and**) falcons.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Bernese Mountain Dog

The origin of the Bernese Mountain Dog can be traced back four to six thousand years ago. Stone Age farmers in the area (**of, free, groom**) Switzerland bred these dogs. At first (**lump, the, strap**) farmers used them as guard and (**plump, strict, protection**) dogs. Much later Bernese Mountain Dogs (**were, dwelt, scalp**) trained to pull milk wagons. This (**dream, dog, trust**) has also been used for herding (**sling, in, still**) the alpine meadows.

The Bernese is (**roast, crust, one**) of four breeds of Alpine herding (**dogs, welt, plant**). These breeds were very near extinction (**crowd, by, blend**) 1870. However, interest in these breeds (**clown, speak, revived**). Soon these dogs began appearing in (**shows, waist, stretch**).

Bernese Mountain Dogs are often mistaken (**for, ground, twist**) St. Bernards. This may be because (**stress, they, drown**) both came from the same region. (**One, Proud, Splash**) difference is that Bernese Mountain dogs (**trump, swept, are**) mostly black. St. Bernards are a (**reddish, strode, stand**) brown. The chest of the Bernese (**state, is, wake**) white. On its face you see (**winter, return, a**) white thin streak that eventually covers (**window, plain, the**) nose area. Brown patches are found (**sweat, on, just**) the legs and lower face. A (**small, slide, there**) brown spot is also found above (**front, each, mean**) eye.

Another difference that you might (**notice, dine, under**) is that St. Bernards are much (**years, known, heavier**) and drool a lot. Bernese males (**reach, month, haven**) 150 pounds. St. Bernard males can (**could, be, laugh**) as big as 250 pounds. Females (**for, release, behind**) both types of dogs are a (**alert, bottom, little**) smaller. Bernese Mountain dogs usually have (**smaller, write, cent**) faces than the St. Bernard.